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EXAMINER

CHOW, MING

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2645

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13

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/734,818

Applicant(s)

CONTRACTOR, SUNIL

Examiner

Ming Chow

Art Unit

2645

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 April 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Art Unit: 2645

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 5-8, 17, 19, 20, 28, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rubin et al, and in view of Bash et al (US: 5463677).

For claims 1 and 17, regarding a service switching point connected to said telephone with said called line number, said service switching point comprising a trigger responsive to a busy status on said called line number, Rubin et al teach on item 26 Fig. 1 SSP and item 28 Fig. 1 destination party telephone number. Rubin et al also teach on Column 1 Line 47 the status of the telephone call is monitored to determine a busy or unanswered condition at the destination party telephone number. If the destination party telephone number is busy or unanswered, a message from the calling party can be recorded within the network database, which can be part of a service control point in the switched telephone network. It is inherent that the SSP must comprise a trigger (to the SCP and the calling party) for message recording in response to a busy status.

Art Unit: 2645

Regarding a signal transfer point adapted to communicate with said service switching point, Rubin et al teach on item 69 Fig. 2 STP.

Regarding a service control point adapted to communicate with said signal transfer point, said service control point containing a database, Rubin et al teach on item 48 Fig. 2 SCP. Rubin et al also teach on item 82 Fig. 3 disk subsystem. The disk subsystem of Rubin is the claimed database.

Regarding a service node connected to said service switching point through a first data link, and connected to said service control point through a second data link, Rubin et al teach on item 50 Fig. 2 SMS. The SMS and disk subsystem together of Rubin is the claimed "service node". Rubin et al also teach on Fig. 2. The connection between SMS and SSP (via SCP and STP) is the claimed "first data link". The connection between SMS and SCP is the claimed "second data link".

Regarding service node is adapted to receive said message from said calling party into a voice messaging system when said called line number has a busy status, store said message, and deliver said message to said called party. Rubin et al teach on Column 1 Line 50 a message from the calling party can be recorded within the network database (the claimed voice messaging system), which can be part of a service control point. The service node must receive the message from calling party for transmitting to a voice messaging system. Rubin et al also teach on Column 5 Line 40 to receive a forwarded message a destination party may be required to enter a PIN or other identifier to obtain access to the stored message. The "receive a forwarded message" of Rubin reads on the claimed "deliver said message". The "destination party" of Rubin et al is the claimed "called party".

Art Unit: 2645

Rubin et al failed to teach “responsive to a request from said called party; and wherein said called party is not a customer of said voice messaging system”. However, Bash et al teach on column 1 line 39-53 a called party who is not a customer of the voice messaging system can retrieve the voice message only when the called party is willing to pay for the message retrieval.

It would have been obvious to one skilled at the time the invention was made to modify Rubin et al to have the “responsive to a request from said called party; and wherein said called party is not a customer of said voice messaging system” as taught by Bash et al such that the modified system of Rubin et al would be able to support the non-customer called party to the system users.

Regarding claims 5 and 19, Rubin et al teach on Column 1 Line 57 the recorded message can be forwarded to one or more telephone numbers at a later time according to a specified date and time received from the calling party. The “date and time received from the calling party” of Rubin et al is the claimed “calling party has granted permission to send”. Rubin et al also teach on Column 5 Line 36 at the selected date and time, the message forwarding system in the switched telephone network forwards the message. It is inherent that the service node (part of the switched telephone network; item 20 of Fig. 2) must determine the time and date to forward the message.

Regarding claim 6, Rubin et al teach on Column 3 Line 45 the service switching point is operable to (i) recognize service requirements and requests. The “recognize service requirements

Art Unit: 2645

and requests” of Rubin et al is the claimed “determine whether said calling party has granted permission”.

Regarding claim 7, Rubin et al teach on Column 4 Line 29 the service management system (the claimed service node) is a management and provisioning system that serves as an intelligent network service administration platform. Rubin et al also teach on Column 3 Line 20 processing ... comprises: ... (ii) processing collected information to determine if a message ought to be and can be recorded. The “information to determine” of Rubin is the claimed “predetermined input”. The “message ought to be and can be recorded” of Rubin reads on the claimed “said message is forthcoming”.

Regarding claims 8 and 20, Rubin et al teach on Column 5 Line 19 a query to a network database such as a service control point so as to obtain message recording instructions. The “message recording instruction” of Rubin et al is the claimed “prompt”.

Regarding claim 28, Rubin et al teach on Column 1 Line 44 a telephone call initiated by a calling party and being routed to a destination party telephone number The status of the telephone call is monitored to determine a busy or unanswered conditionIf the destination party telephone number is busy or unanswered, a message from the calling party can be recorded.

Art Unit: 2645

Regarding claim 29, Rubin et al teach on Column 5 Line 40 to receive a forwarded message a destination party may be required to enter a PIN. The “enter a PIN” of Rubin et al is the claimed “receiving said request”.

3. Claims 2 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rubin et al and Bash et al as applied to claim 1 above, and in view of Walsh et al (US-PAT-NO: 5,797,124). Rubin et al and Bash et al failed to teach said request from said called party is a call from said called line number to said voice message system. However, Walsh et al teach on Column 3 Line 37 the subscriber calls in to retrieve messages. The “subscriber calls in” of Walsh reads “subscriber calls in from, including, called line number”. It is inherent that the call must be made to the claimed voice messaging system in order to retrieve the voice messages. It would have been obvious to one skilled at the time the invention was made to modify Rubin and Bash to have said request from said called party is a call from said called line number to said voice message system as taught by Walsh et al such that the modified system of Rubin and Bash would be able to support a call from said called line number to said voice messaging system to the system users.

4. Claims 3 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rubin et al and Bash et al as applied to claim 1 above, and in view of Garner et al (US-PAT-NO: 5,475,737). Rubin et al and Bash et al failed to teach a message waiting indication to said called party. However, Garner et al teach on Column 11 Line 63 the system will provide a message waiting indication. It would have been obvious to one skilled at the time the invention was made

Art Unit: 2645

to modify Rubin and Bash to have a message waiting indication to said called party as taught by Garner et al such that the modified system of Rubin and Bash would be able to support a message waiting indication to the system users.

5. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rubin et al and Bash et al as applied to claim 1 above, and in view of McConnell (US-PAT-NO: 6,418,306). Rubin and Bash failed to teach a third data link connected to said signal transfer point and adapted to communicate with a wireless telephone system. However, McConnell teaches on item 22 (STP) and item 14 (BTS) Fig. 1. The BTS of McConnell is the claimed wireless telephone system. It would have been obvious to one skilled at the time the invention was made to modify Rubin and Bash to have a third data link connected to said signal transfer point and adapted to communicate with a wireless telephone system as taught by McConnell such that the modified system of Rubin and Bash would be able to support a third data link to communicate with a wireless telephone system to the system users.

6. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rubin et al and Bash et al as applied to claim 1 above, and in view of Pelletier et al (US-PAT-NO: 6,411,704). Rubin and Bash failed to teach said service node comprises said voice messaging system. However, Pelletier et al teach on item 28 Fig. 4 "service node voice mail". It would have been obvious to one skilled at the time the invention was made to modify Rubin and Bash to have service node comprises said voice messaging system as taught by Pelletier et al such that the

Art Unit: 2645

modified system of Rubin and Bash would be able to support service node comprises said voice messaging system to the system users.

7. Claims 10-12 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rubin et al and Bash et al as applied to claim 1 above, and in view of Alger et al (US-PAT-NO: 5,396,542).

Regarding claims 10 and 22, Rubin et al and Bash et al failed to teach said service node is adapted to prompt said calling party with at least one message option. However, Alger et al teach on Column 2 Line 30 system may be implemented using a switching system together with a switch adjunct, e.g., a service node. Alger et al also teach on Column 4 Line 25 – Line 32. The caller is given a brief prompt with at least one message option. It would have been obvious to one skilled at the time the invention was made to modify Rubin and Bash to have said service node is adapted to prompt said calling party with at least one message option as taught by Alger et al such that the modified system of Rubin and Bash would be able to support the prompt with at least one message option to the system users.

Regarding claims 11 and 23, the modified system of Rubin et al and Bash et al in view of Alger et al as stated in claim 10 above failed to teach said prompt comprises audible voice notification. However, Alger et al also teach on Column 4 Line 25 – Line 32. The caller is given a brief prompt (the claimed audible voice notification). It would have been obvious to one skilled at the time the invention was made to modify Rubin, Bash and Alger to have said prompt comprises audible voice notification as taught by Alger et al such that the modified system of

Art Unit: 2645

Rubin, Bash and Alger would be able to support the audible voice notification to the system users.

Regarding claim 12, the modified system of Rubin et al in view of Bash et al as stated in claim 1 above failed to teach said service node is adapted to receive at least one message option from said calling party via one of either telephone keypad entry and voice recognition. However, Alger et al teach on Column 8 Line 27 an automatic speech recognition system could monitor for certain key words. It would have been obvious to one skilled at the time the invention was made to modify Rubin and Bash to have said service node is adapted to receive at least one message option from said calling party via one of either telephone keypad entry and voice recognition as taught by Alger et al such that the modified system of Rubin and Bash would be able to support the voice recognition to the system users.

Regarding claim 21, Rubin et al and Bash et al failed to teach said prompt comprises audible voice notification. However, Alger et al also teach on Column 4 Line 25 – Line 32. The caller is given a brief prompt (the claimed audible voice notification). It would have been obvious to one skilled at the time the invention was made to modify Rubin and Bash et al to have said prompt comprises audible voice notification as taught by Alger et al such that the modified system of Rubin and Bash et al would be able to support the audible voice notification to the system users.

Art Unit: 2645

Regarding claim 24, the modified system of Rubin et al in view of Bash et al and Alger et al as stated in claim 23 above failed to teach said service node is adapted to receive at least one message option from said calling party via one of either telephone keypad entry and voice recognition. However, Alger et al teach on Column 8 Line 27 an automatic speech recognition system could monitor for certain key words. It would have been obvious to one skilled at the time the invention was made to modify Rubin, Bash and Alger to have said service node is adapted to receive at least one message option from said calling party via one of either telephone keypad entry and voice recognition as taught by Alger et al such that the modified system of Rubin, Bash and Alger would be able to support the voice recognition to the system users.

8. Claims 13, 15, 16, 30, 31, 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McConnell, and in view of Bash et al (US: 6463145).

For claim 13, 30, and 31, regarding a home location register adapted to communicate with a mobile switching center, McConnell teaches on item 26 Fig. 1 HLR. The HLR of McConnell is the claimed home location register.

Regarding said mobile switching center adapted to communicate with a plurality of cell sites, said mobile switching center comprising a trigger responsive to a busy status on said called line number. McConnell teaches on item 20 Fig. 1 MSC. The MSC is the claimed mobile switching center. McConnell also teaches on Column 5 Line 32 if an incoming call directed to the mobile phone is not answered or if the phone is busy the MSC queries the SCP or HLR and receives instructions to route the call to the wireless voicemail. The “queries” of McConnell is the claimed “trigger”. Regarding plurality of cell sites adapted to communicate with a plurality

Art Unit: 2645

of wireless telephones, McConnell teaches on Column 1 Line 52 a plurality of landline and wireless phones.

Regarding a signal transfer point adapted to communicate with said mobile switching centers and said home location registers, McConnell teaches on item 22 Fig. 1 STP.

Regarding a service control point adapted to communicate with said signal transfer point, McConnell teaches on item 24 Fig. 1 SCP.

Regarding a service node adapted to communicate with said signal transfer point and to communicate with said mobile switching center, McConnell teaches on item 28 Fig. 1 Wireless VM. The wireless VM of McConnell is the claimed service node. It is inherent that the wireless messaging system must receive, store, and forward the message.

Regarding “service node is adapted.....deliver said message to said called party”, “Official Notice” is taken that the “wireless VM taught by McConnell receives messages from the calling party when the called line number has a busy status, stores the messages, and deliver messages to the called party” is both old and well known in the art.

McConnell failed to teach “responsive to a request.....messaging system”. However, Bash et al teach on column 18 line 10-24 “the unified messaging system (including voice messages) even gives non-subscribers choices with its on-demand services associated with some of the communication options”. The “on-demand services” of Bash et al reads on the claimed “responsive to a request (from said called party)”.

It would have been obvious to one skilled at the time the invention was made to modify McConnell to have the “responsive to a request from said called party; and wherein said called party is not a customer of said voice messaging system” as taught by Bash et al such that the

Art Unit: 2645

modified system of McConnell would be able to support the non-customer called party to the system users.

Regarding claims 15 and 35, McConnell teaches on Column 4 Line 1 invoke customized message waiting notification announcements.

Regarding claim 16, McConnell teaches on Fig. 1 the connection between STP and item 54 is the claimed data link.

9. Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McConnell and Bash et al as applied to claim 13 above, and in view of Walsh et al (US-PAT-NO: 5,797,124). McConnell and Bash et al failed to teach said request from said called party is a call from said called line number to said voice message system. However, Walsh et al teach on Column 3 Line 37 the subscriber calls in to retrieve messages. The “subscriber calls in” of Walsh reads “subscriber calls in from, including, called line number”. It is inherent that the call must be made to the claimed voice messaging system in order to retrieve the voice messages. It would have been obvious to one skilled at the time the invention was made to modify McConnell and Bash et al to have said request from said called party is a call from said called line number to said voice message system as taught by Walsh et al such that the modified system of McConnell and Bash et al would be able to support a call from said called line number to said voice messaging system to the system users.

Art Unit: 2645

10. Claims 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rubin et al and Bash et al as applied to claim 17 above, and in view of Troen-Krasnow et al (US-PAT-NO: 6,442,250).

Regarding claim 26, Rubin et al and Bash et al failed to teach determining if said calling party is a customer, and only if so, receiving said message from said calling party. However, Troen-Krasnow et al teach on Column 6 Line 5 group access unit may prohibit any subscriber from sending a message to a group that is not associated with the subscriber's subscriber ID. The "prohibit any subscriber from sending a message" reads on "determining if said calling party is a customer, and only if so, receiving said message from said calling party". It would have been obvious to one skilled at the time the invention was made to modify Rubin and Bash to determine if said calling party is a customer, and only if so, receiving said message from said calling party as taught by Troen-Krasnow et al such that the modified system of Rubin and Bash would be able to support the determining if said calling party is a customer to the system users.

Regarding claim 27, the modified system of Rubin et al in view of Bash et al and Troen-Krasnow et al as stated in claim 26 above failed to teach determining if said calling party is a customer comprises comparing said calling party to a predetermined plurality of authorized calling parties. However, Troen-Krasnow et al teach on Column 6 Line 5 group access unit may prohibit any subscriber from sending a message to a group that is not associated with the subscriber's subscriber ID. The "prohibit any subscriber from sending a message to a group that is not associated with the subscriber's subscriber ID" reads on "comparing said calling party to a

Art Unit: 2645

predetermined plurality of authorized calling parties". The group that is associated with the subscriber's subscriber ID is the claimed authorized calling parties. It would have been obvious to one skilled at the time the invention was made to modify Rubin, Bash and Troen-Krasnow to determine if said calling party is a customer comprises comparing said calling party to a predetermined plurality of authorized calling parties as taught by Troen-Krasnow et al such that the modified system of Rubin, Bash and Troen-Krasnow et al would be able to support the comparing said calling party to a predetermined plurality of authorized calling parties to the system users.

11. Claim 32, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McConnell and Bash et al as applied to claim 30 above, and in view of Troen-Krasnow et al (US-PAT-NO: 6,442,250). McConnell et al and Bash et al failed to teach determining if said calling party is a customer, and only if so, receiving said message from said calling party. However, Troen-Krasnow et al teach on Column 6 Line 5 group access unit may prohibit any subscriber from sending a message to a group that is not associated with the subscriber's subscriber ID. The "prohibit any subscriber from sending a message" reads on "determining if said calling party is a customer, and only if so, receiving said message from said calling party". It would have been obvious to one skilled at the time the invention was made to modify McConnell and Bash et al to determine if said calling party is a customer, and only if so, receiving said message from said calling party as taught by Troen-Krasnow et al such that the modified system of McConnell and Bash et al would be able to support the determining if said calling party is a customer to the system users

Art Unit: 2645

12. Claims 33 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McConnell and Bash et al as applied to claim 30 above, and in view of Rubin et al (US-PAT-NO: 5,778,052).

Regarding claim 33, McConnell and Bash et al failed to teach prompting said calling party for said message. However, Rubin et al teach on Column 5 Line 19 a query to a network database such as a service control point so as to obtain message recording instructions. The “message recording instruction” of Rubin et al is the claimed “prompting”. It would have been obvious to one skilled at the time the invention was made to modify McConnell and Bash et al to have prompting said calling party for said message as taught by Rubin et al such that the modified system of McConnell and Bash et al would be able to support the prompting to the system users.

Regarding claim 34, McConnell and Bash et al failed to teach prior to receiving said message from said calling party, dialing said called line number and determining if a busy status is received, and if so, prompting said calling party for said message. However, Rubin et al teach on Column 1 Line 44 a telephone call initiated by a calling party and being routed to a destination party telephone number The status of the telephone call is monitored to determine a busy or unanswered conditionIf the destination party telephone number is busy or unanswered, a message from the calling party can be recorded. It would have been obvious to one skilled at the time the invention was made to modify McConnell and Bash et al to have prior to receiving said message from said calling party, dialing said called line number and

Art Unit: 2645

determining if a busy status is received, and if so, prompting said calling party for said message as taught by Rubin et al such that the modified system of McConnell and Bash et al would be able to support the dialing said called line number and determining if a busy status is received prior to receiving said message to the system users.

Response to Arguments

13. Applicant's arguments filed on 4/16/03 have been fully considered.
 - i) Applicant argues, on page 3, regarding the claimed limitation "called party is not a customer of said voice messaging system". A new prior art (Bash et al) is cited for this rejection.
 - ii) Applicant argues, on page 5, regarding "delivering the message to the called party responsive to a request from the called party". Rubin et al teach on column 1 line 42-53, a message from the calling party is recorded when the destination party line is busy. The "destination party" of Rubin et al is the claimed "called party". Rubin et al also teach on column 1 line 57-61 "the recorded message can be forwarded to one or more telephone numbers corresponding to various destination parties" (reads on the claimed "deliver said message to said called party". Although, Rubin et al also teach "destination party can forward the message and added comments back to the calling party or to one or more third parties". However, it is a further limitation taught by Rubin et al and it is

Art Unit: 2645

beyond the scope of limitations claimed by the Applicant. Also, the newly cited prior art (Bash et al) teaches the argued limitation (see rejections as stated in claim 1).

Conclusion

14. The prior art made of record and not replied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

i) Fisher et al (US-PAT-NO: 5,017,917) teach restriction of communication service accessibility among subscriber communities.

14. Any inquiry concerning this application and office action should be directed to the examiner Ming Chow whose telephone number is (703) 305-4817. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fan Tsang, can be reached on (703) 305-4895. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Customer Service whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

Or faxed to TC2600's Customer Service FAX Number 703-872-9314.

Art Unit: 2645

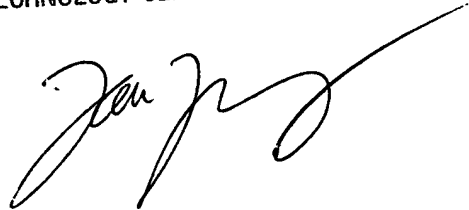
Patent Examiner

Art Unit 2645

Ming Chow

(M)

FAN TSANG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fan Tsang', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.